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Addendum to the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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Twenty-second special session
Supplement No. 2A (A/S-22/2/Add.1)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. Introduction

1. By its decision 53/486 of 2 September 1999, the General Assembly took note of a letter dated 24 August 1999 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly, by which the Chairman informed the President that the Committee on Conferences had decided to authorize the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (twenty-second special session), to hold a two-day resumed session in order to complete its work.

II. Organization of the resumed session

2. The Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as preparatory body for the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, held a resumed session at United Nations Headquarters on 9 and 10 September 1999.[1] It held three meetings (3rd to 5th) and a number of informal meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Vice-Chairman of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Navid Hanif (Pakistan).

III. Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

4. At its third meeting, on 9 September 1999, the Commission acting as preparatory body had before it an informal paper containing the texts entitled "Draft declaration" and "State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States". The paper reflected the results of informal consultations held on the texts as contained in the report of the Commission acting as preparatory body.[2]

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), and Samoa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States).

6. At the fourth meeting, on 10 September 1999, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Japan.

7. At the fifth meeting, on 10 September 1999, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda reported on the outcome of informal consultations held on the revised draft texts.

8. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Samoa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), the Commission acting as preparatory body decided to transmit the texts entitled "Draft declaration" and "State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" to the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session, for further consideration (see chap. V, decision 1999/PC/3).

9. After the adoption of the decision, statements were made by the representatives of Barbados (on behalf of the Caribbean Community and some members of the Alliance of Small Islands), the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Japan, Brazil, Cuba, India, Suriname, Argentina and Jamaica.

IV. Adoption of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as preparatory body for the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly on its resumed session

10. At its fifth meeting, on 10 September 1999, the Commission acting as preparatory body for the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly adopted the draft report on its resumed session.

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[1] For the main report of the Commission acting as preparatory body, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-22/2).

[2] See ibid., chap. III.E.

V. Decision adopted by the Commission acting as preparatory body

11. The Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted the following decision:

Decision 1999/PC/3. Draft texts for the consideration of the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session

The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as preparatory body decides to transmit the following texts, entitled "Draft declaration" and "State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", to the General Assembly, at its twenty-second special session, for further consideration:

Draft declaration*

We, the States participating in the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Having met at the United Nations on 27 and 28 September 1999,

Reaffirming the principles of and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, as well as the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth, sixth and seventh sessions,

Recognizing that small island developing States share a common aspiration for economic development and improved living standards, and remain strongly committed to conserving the natural and cultural heritage upon which their future depends, and considering that this review of the further implementation of the Programme of Action aims to build on agreements already reached by the small island developing States and the international community concerning sustainable development, and that it provides a measure of progress towards sustainable development among small island developing States and their regions and identifies where special attention is required to further advance the implementation of sustainable development,

Recalling that small island developing States are recognized as a special case for both environment and development because they are ecologically fragile and vulnerable, and because they face particular constraints in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and because their specific physical circumstances often create difficulties in benefiting from global economic development and thus achieving sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States translates Agenda 21 into specific policies, actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to enable small island developing States to address these constraints and achieve sustainable development,

Recognizing that small island developing States communities are custodians of large areas of the world's oceans and have a high share of global biodiversity, and that they are at the forefront in the fight against climate change, and that their exposure and predicament underline the urgent need to take action to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recognizing also that solutions found in this regard may provide examples beneficial to other countries around the world,

Recognizing further that considerable efforts have been made at all levels to implement the Programme of Action, and that there is a need for these efforts to be further supplemented by effective support from the international community, including financial support, by institutional strengthening and improved coordination, by targeted capacity-building and by facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in accordance with paragraph 34.14 (b) of Agenda 21,

* As of 10 September 1999; text that does not appear in brackets has been agreed ad referendum.

Having considered progress reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the views expressed by delegations to the special session,

Convinced that the implementation of the Programme of Action must be accelerated by progress in the cross-cutting and interlinked areas of capacity-building, financing, and technology transfer, and that institutional arrangements should be strengthened for its successful implementation,

1. *Welcome* the efforts by small island developing States to implement the commitments of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the support of the international community, and notes that these efforts have been affected by financial and other resource constraints and by global economic and environmental factors;

2. *Welcome also* the continued efforts of small island developing States to formulate national sustainable development strategies;

3. *Encourage* the efforts of all parties to foster an enabling environment to assist small island developing States in addressing overarching issues so as to achieve sustainable development;

4. *Call on* the international community to provide effective means, including adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, in accordance with chapter 33 of Agenda 21 and paragraphs 91-95 of the Programme of Action, to support efforts in achieving the full implementation of the Programme of Action, particularly in tackling complex issues, such as poverty, as highlighted in paragraph 6 of the review document;

5. *Call on* the international community to provide support for capacity and institutional building programmes and projects in small island developing States, and, where appropriate, to support the establishment of training centres and other relevant capacity-building efforts;

6. *Call for* increased efforts to assist small island developing States in obtaining the transfer of environmentally sound technology needed for them, as set forth in the Programme of Action, to achieve sustainable development and implement the Programme of Action;

7. *Call on* the Secretary-General to improve the existing institutional arrangements in the United Nations to effectively support small island developing States so that the United Nations system will become more proactive in promoting and assisting sustainable development in small island developing States;

8. *Welcome* the continued efforts of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States in promoting the interests and concerns of small island developing States, including in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. [*Endorse* the series of broad initiatives for the further implementation of the Programme of Action as outlined in the [recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development]].

State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*

I. Introduction

1. Since its adoption at the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, all chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which contain an integrated and comprehensive basis for the sustainable development of small island developing States, have been reviewed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, in 1996, and at its sixth session, in 1998. At its seventh session, in 1999, the Commission, in preparation of the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, further reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action and identified the following areas for priority action, including the means for their implementation: climate change, including climate variability and sea level rise; natural disasters; freshwater resources; coastal and marine resources; energy; and tourism. The Commission recognized that the sectoral focus of its review should not detract from the need for a full and comprehensive implementation of *all* chapters of the Programme of Action. The Commission emphasized that the Programme of Action remains a valuable and living framework for the sustainable development efforts being undertaken by small island developing States, and noted the actions taken by Governments,

* As of 10 September 1999, text that does not appear in brackets has been agreed ad referendum.

regional commissions and organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in support of activities relating to its implementation. The special session of the General Assembly reaffirms the commitment of the international community to the continued implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its seventh session, also took note of the results of the small island developing States donors' meeting of 24 to 26 February 1999, which, *inter alia*, considered a compendium of national and regional project proposals. The meeting underscored the strong sense of commitment to and ownership of the Programme of Action by small island developing States, and was welcomed as contributing towards strengthening and enriching the partnership between small island developing States and the international community. It also noted that, in accordance with their responsibility, considerable efforts have been made by small island developing States at the national and regional levels to meet the priorities and objectives of the Programme of Action, especially the elaboration of national sustainable development strategies. Consistent with their special concerns, and bearing in mind that small island developing States are custodians of a significant portion of the world's oceans and seas and their resources, small island developing States have been actively and constructively engaged in international negotiations in pursuing integrated approaches in such areas as climate change, biodiversity, law of the sea, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution, and have undertaken efforts to meet their commitments under related international agreements.

3. At the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, the international community reiterated its recognition of the specific constraints faced by small island developing States and the need for particular support in their efforts to advance sustainable development due to their small size and remoteness, ecological fragility, vulnerability to climate change and economic vulnerabilities. Small island developing States share many concerns and constraints to sustainable development, and are affected by them in varying degrees. The specificity of the situation and needs of small island developing States in relation to sustainable development were acknowledged in Agenda 21 and further articulated in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Constraints to the sustainable development of small island developing States include a narrow resource base, which does not allow small island developing States to benefit from economies of scale; small domestic markets and heavy dependence on a few external and remote markets; high costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation, communication and servicing; long distances from export markets and import sources; low and irregular international traffic volumes; little resilience to natural disasters; rising populations; high volatility of economic growth; limited opportunities for the private sector and a proportionately large reliance of their economies on the public sector; and fragile natural environments.

4. At its seventh session, the Commission also took note that since the holding of the Global Conference in 1994, the pace of globalization and trade liberalization has affected the economies of small island developing States by presenting new problems and opportunities for them and increasing the need for focused implementation of the Programme of Action. As a result of globalization, national policy frameworks and external factors, including trade impacts, have become critical in determining the success or failure of small island developing States in their national efforts. Small island developing States are particularly concerned that the specific problems and vulnerabilities confronting them exacerbate the difficulties encountered in their efforts to integrate into the world economy, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, commodities and capital markets. To address these challenges small island developing States are undertaking domestic reforms in the area of macroeconomic policy to facilitate integration into the global economy. At the regional level, they have also begun to put in place appropriate policy frameworks and arrangements to integrate their economic, social and environmental approaches to sustainable development in order to maximize opportunities available to them and minimize the constraints that they face. A mutually supportive balance between the international and national environment is needed, so as to achieve sustainable development.

5. The General Assembly recognizes that while it is up to small island developing States to pursue sustainable development and all partners should foster an enabling environment, the international community is committed to taking further measures to support small island developing States in this regard. The

Commission on Sustainable Development recognized that the further successful implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will require action by all partners in the following areas: to foster an enabling environment for investment and external assistance; resource mobilization and financing; the transfer of environmentally sound technologies as set forth in the Programme of Action; and capacity-building, including education, training, awareness-raising and institutional development. The Commission assessed the progress made since the Global Conference by the international community in responding to the financial provisions of the Programme of Action, including through the mobilization of resources, the initiation of discussions on financing for development, work on a vulnerability index, donor coordination, strengthened and expanded partnerships, mainstreaming sustainable development activities, and working to assure better results from institutions to small island developing States' efforts and sustainable development of small island developing States, especially through capacity-building. The Commission reiterated the need for more focused action at all levels, including the international level, to strengthen support, including financial support from all sources, to small island developing States for programmes and projects targeted towards capacity-building and institutional building, facilitating the access of small island developing States to and transfer and use of environmentally sound technology, as set forth in the Programme of Action. In order to facilitate targeted action in these areas, there is a need for Governments of small island developing States to develop or strengthen an effective policy framework along with national and regional sustainable development strategies or action plans.

6. Poverty remains a major problem affecting the capacity of many small island developing States to achieve sustainable development. The complexity, pervasiveness and persistence of poverty has compromised the ability of States to provide basic social services, including basic education, health care, nutrition, clean water and sanitation, and to undertake effective land and coastal area management and urban planning and development. Poverty in small island developing States has been exacerbated by increasing levels of unemployment; both will have to be addressed in tandem in order to deal effectively with the crippling effect of poverty on sustainable development capacity. Eradication of poverty is therefore a serious issue and an objective of high priority for small island developing States, and requires the integration of economic, environmental and social components of action to achieve sustainable development.

7. At its seventh session, the Commission concluded that, among other things, the full, effective, and long-term implementation of the Programme of Action requires a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community. The Commission encouraged the continuation of strengthened partnership between small island developing States and their private sector. It also encouraged the private sector of other countries to further develop partnership with small island developing States.

II. Sectoral areas requiring urgent action

A. Climate change

8. Small island developing States are among those countries most at risk from the adverse effects of climate change. The capacities and means to adapt to this phenomenon are an absolute necessity for these States. The involvement and committed support of the international community are critical complements to small island developing States' own efforts in any response and long-term planning by small island developing States. International support is particularly required for identifying adaptation options and linking efforts to reduce vulnerability with the best available information.

9. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Improvement of the capacity of small island developing States to adequately respond and adapt to climate change, and to participate in and make the necessary linkages to other international activities, such as the study of climate variability;

(b) Improvement of work on capabilities for climate prediction;

(c) Closer collaboration of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change will be desirable so that information can be readily incorporated into the overall planning for long-term adaptation.

B. Natural and environmental disasters and climate variability

10. Small island developing States are prone to extremely damaging natural disasters, primarily in the form of cyclones, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, and are subject to effects of climate variability. In some islands, the range of these disasters and phenomena include storm surges, landslides, extended droughts and extensive floods. During 1997-1998, the El Niño phenomenon had its strongest impact on record on the sustainable development of many small island developing States.

11. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Greater effort to improve the scientific understanding of severe weather events, such as those associated with the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon, and the development of long-term strategies for prediction and reduction of their impacts;

(b) Improvement of work on capabilities for natural disaster reduction and early warning systems, including in-depth assessment and consideration of effective means of natural disaster reduction;

(c) Development of partnerships between small island developing States and the private sector consistent with responsible business practices to implement schemes that spread risks, reduce insurance premiums, expand insurance coverage and thereby increase financing for post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation.

C. Freshwater resources

12. The issue of freshwater availability is crucial for small island developing States in all regions. Surface water and groundwater resources are limited by the small watershed and aquifer-recharge areas, and urban expansion has further exacerbated the availability and quality of water resources. The geophysical characteristics of many small islands leave them vulnerable to extreme climatological, seismic and volcanic events, and more critically to periods of drought, low recharge and adverse environmental impacts, including pollution, saline intrusion and soil erosion, among others, and they require increased attention to watershed management, land and water use planning.

13. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Implementation of Commission on Sustainable Development decision 6/1, relating to its work programme on freshwater issues in the special context of small island developing States;

(b) Improvement of assessment, planning and integrated management of freshwater resources in the special context of small island developing States;

(c) Coordination and refocusing of aid and other programmes and projects designed to assist small island developing States, as and where appropriate, in developing or implementing national policies, strategies and legal frameworks, as well as coherent plans and actions, within an integrated water resources management approach.

D. Coastal and marine resources

14. The health, protection and preservation of coastal and marine resources are fundamental to the livelihood and sustainable development of small island developing States. Improved coastal and ocean management as well as conservation of the coasts, oceans and seas and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and arrangements and initiatives, including efforts aimed at reducing land and sea-based

pollution, are critical both in support of regional fisheries organizations and in maintaining the oceans as a source of food and a principal factor in tourism development.

15. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Establishment and/or strengthening of programmes to build capacity, assess and manage the vast oceanic resources of small island developing States, and establish and/or strengthen specific regional or subregional arrangements for oceans and small island developing States issues;

(b) Establishment and/or strengthening of programmes within the framework of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the regional seas programme, to assess the impact of planning and development on the coastal environment, including coastal communities, wetlands, coral reef habitats and the areas under the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of small island developing States and to implement the Programme of Action;

(c) Strengthening of national capacity for the development of a methodology or guidelines for sound practices and techniques suitable for small island developing States, for achieving the integrated management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine areas under the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of small island developing States, building on existing experience in that area;

(d) Scientific research and analysis relevant to the conservation and management of highly migratory and straddling fish stocks on the high seas and in the marine areas under the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of small island developing States;

(e) Enhancement of the conservation and sustainable management and utilization of coastal zone ecosystems and resources of the marine areas under the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of small island developing States;

(f) Ratification of or accession to by States of the 1995 United Nations Agreement for the International Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, and further calls upon small island developing States to actively participate in emerging and for existing regional fisheries management organizations in order to fully implement these agreements;

(g) Formulation of policies, strategies and measures to address fisheries needs, including the urgent need to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the marine areas under the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of small island developing States, to ensure essential sources of food supplies for island populations, and economic development;

(h) Strengthening of national, subregional and regional capacity for negotiating fishing agreements;

(i) Strengthening of national, subregional and regional capacity for the promotion, assessment and monitoring of commercial investment in sustainable fisheries, including catching, processing and marketing, as well as, where appropriate, environmentally sound methods of aquaculture to increase ownership and management capacities of commercial fisheries activities by small island developing States communities and national activities in the context of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and keeping in mind the recent FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity;

(j) Greater regional coordination in management and monitoring, control and surveillance, including vessel monitoring systems and enforcement, consistent with international agreements of coastal countries and fishing countries in the marine areas under the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of small island developing States, including the management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;

(k) Assistance to small island developing States in assessing the impact of land-based sources of marine pollution, and to develop mechanisms to eliminate or minimize pollution sources and participate in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(1) [[*Reiterate*] [*Recall*] the provisions of paragraph 24, C (iii) of the Programme of Action and reaffirm that the implementation of this paragraph shall be consistent with [international law including] the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant existing international legal instruments, in particular those mentioned in paragraph 67 of the Programme of Action.

(1) *bis* (alternative 1) [In view of the concerns of small island developing States that the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes is not adequately covered in the existing international legal regimes, in particular safety measures, disclosure, liability and compensation [,] [especially] in relation to accidents, and remedial measures in relation to contamination from such wastes, call on all States and relevant international organizations to [address] [consider] these concerns in a specific and comprehensive manner and call on the Secretary-General to report ... on the efforts and measures undertaken to address these concerns and on progress achieved.]

(1) *bis* (alternative 2) [Taking into consideration the discussions which have been made in the relevant international organizations on the concerns of small island developing States over the transboundary movements of hazardous and radioactive wastes, call on States to continue their efforts to ensure that the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes and materials is conducted in a safe and secure manner in accordance with relevant international laws and regulations.]

(1) *ter* [Continue efforts to implement the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.]

16. Action is needed to sustain healthy reefs. Such action will build on the International Coral Reefs Initiative and global reef assessments to ensure food security and fish stock replenishment, and will provide a focus for implementation of the Jakarta Mandate, including marine protected areas and the Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

17. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Encouragement of national and regional community-based reef conservation and management;

(b) Initiatives related to alternative livelihoods, such as aquaculture and eco-tourism;

(c) Post-harvest technology and management initiatives;

(d) Integrated reef management initiatives;

(e) Research, monitoring and transfer of technology as set forth in the Programme of Action to assess the impact of exploration of non-living resources on the coastal and marine environments;

(f) Further implementation of coral reef action plans as part of the International Coral Reef Initiative and its "Call to action", "Renewed call to action" and "Framework for action".

E. Energy

18. Taking into account the dependency of small island developing States on conventional energy sources, there is a need for mobilization of resources from all sources, including from the private sector, for the provision of technical, financial and technological assistance, as appropriate, to small island developing States, to encourage energy efficiency, and to accelerate and maximize the development and utilization of environmentally sound renewable energy sources.

19. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Establishment of renewable energy initiatives at the regional level so as to avoid duplication of efforts and to achieve economies of scale;

(b) Development of human resources for the planning and sustainable management needs of a renewable energy sector;

(c) Promotion of research and development and private sector investment in priority renewable energy projects;

(d) Financing of renewable energy applications, including standards and guidelines for energy efficiency and conservation;

(e) Implementation in small island developing States of best practices in achieving clean, sustainable energy resources and encouraging private sector involvement in the utilization of renewable energy resources and innovative financing schemes with a view to longer-term self-sufficiency in energy resources.

F. Tourism

20. The development and promotion of sustainable tourism will require efforts undertaken by small island developing States at the national and regional levels. In this regard, there is a need for continued international support and cooperation. Particular attention will be required to coordinate eco-tourism ventures at the regional level, and to facilitate the sharing of information and experiences and the integration of the private sector within official development assistance supported eco-tourism projects. Specific actions have been identified in the report of the United Nations Environment Programme/World Tourism Organization on sustainable tourism development for small island developing States. In this regard, the special session noted the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session on sustainable tourism, and called for its application, as appropriate, to small island developing States.

21. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Establishment of regional and national environmental assessment programmes to address the carrying capacity of natural resources, including the social, economic and cultural implications of tourism development;

(b) Strengthening of institutional capacity-building in the tourism sector, and promoting environmental protection and the preservation of cultural heritage through local community awareness and participation;

(c) Encouragement of the use of modern technologies and communications systems that effectively maximize the use of global, regional and national information in support of sustainable tourism development;

(d) Improvement of the collection and use of tourism data as a means to facilitate the development of sustainable tourism;

(e) Establishment of partnerships for sustainable tourism to effectively conserve and utilize limited resources, based on consumer and market demand and the development of community-based initiatives. Destination marketing should preserve local culture and a healthy environment;

(f) Building of institutional capacity, further develop human resources at all levels of the tourism industry, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises and improve the capacity to utilize modern technologies.

22. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Enhancement of sustainable tourism and sustainably managed tourism operations through the adoption of appropriate regulations, a voluntary code of conduct, criteria for best practices, and other innovative measures;

(b) Mobilization of adequate resources from all sources to assist small island developing States in strengthening institutional capacity, human resources and environmental protection;

(c) Improvement of small island developing States capacity to implement treaty requirements of the

International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization.

23. The linkages between sustainable tourism, energy and transport are of considerable importance to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States amongst them. This should be borne in mind in the preparation for the agenda item on energy and transport at the ninth session of the Commission.

III. Means of implementation

A. Sustainable development strategies

24. National and regional sustainable development strategies allow for a more effective use of national and regional human, institutional, financial and natural resources, as well as cooperation at the regional and interregional levels. Comprehensive and collaborative strategies can also provide a solid basis for the more efficient and cost-effective implementation of donor-assisted programmes and projects. This is especially the case if these strategies are conceived as action-oriented, allowing for a process of step-by-step improvements and adjustments, and as an instrument to promote broader participation of all relevant groups and civil society.

25. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Renewed commitment by small island developing States to the completion of national sustainable development strategies, and also, as appropriate, of subregional and regional strategies, ideally before the target date of 2002 as agreed at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, held in 1997, so as to enable implementation to be put in place as soon as possible;

(b) Exchange of experience among different island regions in the implementation of their national sustainable development strategies;

(c) Formulation of sustainable development strategies through transparent and participatory approaches, and to the extent possible to set out clear indicators and benchmarks of progress which, while reflecting individual country circumstances, will also reflect wider goals, including regional objectives. Such indicators should also provide a framework for measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of national implementation strategies and international cooperation in this regard;

(d) Strengthening of national/regional statistical and analytical services so that they can adequately record and measure progress, including changes in the vulnerability and fragility of their economic and environmental conditions. Data collection should be able to be gender and age disaggregated;

(e) Consistency with the goals of the international sustainable development strategies programmes and plans of action adopted at successive global conferences of the 1990s.

B. Capacity-building

26. Capacity-building remains critical to the long-term sustainable development of small island developing States. Small island developing States are determined to continue their efforts at capacity-building. Concern remains in respect of the levels of external assistance for capacity-building. Mobilization of resources from all sources is essential to enable small island developing States to continue their commitment to sustainable development at all levels, in particular to build capacity for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

27. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Continued development and implementation of sustainable development strategies to strengthen institutional capacity;

(b) Promotion of education for sustainable development, including training in demographic issues and gender balance in the delivery of all education and public-awareness programmes;

(c) Building of, as appropriate, with international support to sectoral agencies, the capacities of small island developing States for operationalizing sustainable development management concepts, including, where appropriate, the eco-system approach;

(d) Making greater use of traditional and indigenous skills-training and awareness-raising approaches, use of local languages in the development and presentation of resource material and the involvement of local communities in education, training and awareness programmes;

(e) Continued strengthening of development of public-private partnerships involving the full range of potential partners to promote and support sustainable development;

(f) Strengthening of regional technical training and scientific research centres; scientific research, including the improvement of data and data collection, and also centres of excellence in tourism and sustainable development.

C. Resource mobilization and finance

28. Resource mobilization is clearly one of the main challenges for small island developing States, and while their concern with resource constraints is by no means new small island developing States believe that it must be addressed with a new resolve by all partners if the special session is to provide the needed impetus to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Adequate financial resources at all levels remain crucial to the continued implementation of the Programme of Action. Availability of and access to appropriate and current technology and improved baseline information and environmental data to address technical issues are also crucial. The successful implementation of the Programme of Action will thus require the provision of effective means, including adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, in accordance with chapter 33 of Agenda 21, paragraphs 91 to 95 of the Programme of Action and paragraphs 76 to 87 of the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21. The mobilization of resources will also be necessary for the transfer of environmentally sound technology, as set forth in the Programme of Action and science and technology, and capacity-building including education, awareness-raising and institutional development.

29. Many small island developing States find it increasingly difficult to access concessional development finance due to the application of criteria by some members of the international community, which focus on their relatively higher per capita gross national product levels without taking full account of their actual levels of development, vulnerability or standard of living in real terms. Financial requirements and technical support remain as critical as ever if the implementation of the Programme of Action is to progress further, and will depend ultimately on the resources that small island developing States can mobilize from internal and external sources to meet the great challenges of sustainable development in general and capacity-building in particular. Recognizing that small island developing States are among the most environmentally vulnerable, the Commission urged the international community to give special priority to their situations and needs, including through access to grants and other concessional resources.

30. Statistics provided through the Commission indicate that the overall decline in official development assistance has also affected small island developing States, for which net bilateral and multilateral disbursements have decreased from US$ 2,366.2 million in 1994 to US$ 1,966.2 million in 1997. This decline in ODA to small island developing States has had an impact on these countries.

31. It is recognized that financial resources for sustainable development need to be further mobilized at the national level, in accordance with national priorities and capacity. Small island developing States must also intensify their search for new modalities for resource mobilization, particularly for regional initiatives. Donors and small island developing States should make more efficient use of existing resources, including through better coordination. Action should be initiated to optimize the role of existing regional coordinating mechanisms. Possibilities for encouraging private sector cooperation with partners in small island developing States should be an area for further attention in the follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Resources could also be mobilized through the adoption of a regional approach to issues of policy, legislation, and technical development.

32. The responsiveness of international funding sources, such as the Global Environment Facility

(GEF) to small island developing States issues has been welcomed, particularly in relation to the implementation of small island developing States commitments under the relevant conventions, and GEF will remain an important channel for financial resources to assist small island developing States. Overall, small island developing States access to and responsiveness from, multilateral finance institutions should be improved.

33. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Identification of programmes and projects, with particular reference on the areas identified for urgent action which could be financed by the GEF and other multilateral financial mechanisms;

(b) Improvement of the effectiveness of bilateral and multilateral development assistance, including by streamlining and harmonizing procedures, indicators and reporting methods, and by promoting coordination among donors;

(c) Building on the recent small island developing States donors' meeting, with special consideration from the international community for new and additional financial commitments and disbursements of resources, as well as better and more efficient use of ODA and other existing external sources of finance, taking into account the specific development needs and priorities of small island developing States;

(d) Project proposals submitted by small island developing States should be evaluated by competent authorities, taking into account the specific development needs and priorities of small island developing States and paying particular attention to the areas of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States which have not yet received adequate resources;

(e) Invitation of the continuing commitment from international financial institutions, for sustainable development projects and programmes in small island developing States.

D. Globalization and trade liberalization

34. Small island developing States face new challenges and opportunities from globalization, and have diverse capacities to adapt. Thus, the potential benefits to small island developing States from globalization and trade liberalization will be severely constrained unless their limitations and vulnerabilities are further recognized by the international community, including the relevant international organizations. There is therefore an urgent need to facilitate the integration of small island developing States economies into the world economy in a sustainable manner, including through specific provisions and measures. This should be given due consideration in the ongoing work being done by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and by the World Trade Organization, taking into account, among other considerations, within the context of trade liberalization, the effects on small island developing States economies of the erosion of trade preferences, as well as difficulties faced with diversification and access markets.

35. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Addressing, as appropriate, the disadvantages and the vulnerabilities of small island developing States in the context of international trade, including market access, taking into account the consequences, positive and negative, of globalization and trade liberalization on small island developing States, and the need to facilitate small island developing States' integration into the global market;

(a) *bis* Addressing the adverse consequences and benefits, existing and potential, of globalization and trade liberalization on the economies of small island developing States and assisting small island developing States, as appropriate, in improving their competitiveness, including through provisions and specific measures. In this regard the multilateral trading system is encouraged to consider, as

appropriate, the grant of special and differential treatment;

(b) Calling on UNCTAD, in consultation with small island developing States, to address the economic situation and trading prospects of small island developing States in its ongoing comprehensive examination of the impact of globalization and trade liberalization on the economies of small island developing States during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

(c) The international community to provide support to small island developing States, as necessary, towards the improvement and strengthening of their capabilities in the field of trade policy, trade efficiency policies, trade in services, including in electronic commerce, to assist them in coping with the challenge posed by the globalization of markets;

(d) The international community to provide support and technical assistance, as necessary, to small island developing States, including in capacity-building, to enhance their effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations, activities and dispute settlement (including the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization) and formulating a positive agenda for future trade negotiations;

(e) Addressing, as appropriate, the difficulties of diversification in small island developing States economies.

E. Transfer of environmentally sound technology

36. Small island developing States have special characteristics and concerns in such areas as environment. The development and application of new approaches and technologies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the effects of climate change are critical to small island developing States. To enhance their effectiveness, these technologies should be modified, if necessary, to take into account the special needs of small island developing States and emphasis should be placed on technologies that are low cost, and proven in terms of environmental benefit and security, such as renewable energy and conservation technologies. Small island developing States have devoted considerable time, effort and resources to work on technologies and technology information. The continued financial and technical support from all sources is needed.

37. Small island developing States are at different stages in assessing nationally their vulnerabilities and ways of adapting to climate change. Small island developing States members recognize that further study, research and analysis is required to assess the effects of climate change. One particular urgency is identifying appropriate technology to meet the needs of low-lying small island developing States whose national freshwater supplies are already contaminated by saline intrusion. International efforts in studying the problems, conducting research and developing adaptation technologies could usefully complement and strengthen the work begun by small island developing States.

38. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Development of and participation of small island developing States in clean technology initiatives, including the identification of investment opportunities in environmentally sound technologies and environmental management practices;

(b) Promotion of access by small island developing States to information on the availability of environmentally sound technologies and terms of their transfer, in particular in areas identified for priority action;

(c) Building of capacities of small island developing States for science and technology needs assessment and technology assessment;

(d) Small island developing States in the development of networking technology-related institutional support structures, including information systems and sources, technology centres, enterprise development centres, and research and development institutions;

(e) Provision of support to small island developing States and their institutions involved in technologies and technology information through multilateral and bilateral support;

(f) Encouragement of private sector participation, *inter alia*, through the use of partnership arrangements, including public-private partnerships, in developing cooperation between small island developing States and other countries in order to facilitate the transfer and use of environmentally sound technology and environmentally sound technology-related investments to small island developing States as set forth in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(g) Encouragement of strategic alliances between research and development institutions and potential technology users to harness the creative capabilities of the scientific communities in the development of new, proven and innovative adaptation strategies and relevant technologies suitable to the particular circumstances of small island developing States, for example, in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

F. Vulnerability index

39. At its sixth session, the Commission recalled that a vulnerability index that takes account of the constraints arising from small size and environmental fragility, as well as the incidence of natural disasters on a national scale, and the consequent relationship of those constraints to economic vulnerability, would assist in defining the vulnerability of small island developing States and in identifying the challenges to their sustainable development. It has also been recognized that a vulnerability index of environmental as well as socio-economic parameters which takes fully into account the special circumstances and vulnerabilities of small island developing States could be useful. The widespread use of a vulnerability index as a potential supplement to other criteria used in decision-making on cooperation with, including concessional treatment to, small island developing States is strongly encouraged.

40. The need for a vulnerability index on socio-economic and environmental parameters is highlighted in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Small island developing States have set high priority on the development of the vulnerability index, and support the process of defining the concept of vulnerability as it applies to small island developing States and the identification of common elements of vulnerability, which render them susceptible to economic and ecological exogenous shocks. The coordination of efforts by the United Nations and other international organizations to develop an index is essential.

41. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action:

(a) Completion of the quantitative and analytic work on a vulnerability index for small island developing States, preferably by the year 2000;

(b) Building of capacity at all levels for the long-term monitoring and evaluation of vulnerability;

(c) Welcoming of the inclusion of small island developing States in the *Global Environment Outlook* process, which will provide better environmental baseline data.

G. Information management: Small Island Developing States Network

42. The Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNET) is a tangible outcome of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Along with other information technology programmes, it holds significant potential for the effective and successful implementation of the Programme of Action. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), small island developing States, through their Alliance of Small Island States, have been closely involved in the development of SIDSNET. To strengthen the SIDSNET concept, it is important that small island developing States enhance their ownership of the Network.

43. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action:

(a) Facilitation of the transfer, as set forth in the Programme of Action, of modern technology and communication systems in order to promote their use;

(b) Addressing the constraints to Internet connectivity;

(c) Improvement of the information packaging in relation to sustainable development;

(d) Encouragement of private sector opportunities and involvement;

(e) Provision of necessary human resources support and training;

(f) Establishment of links to existing clearing house and similar network mechanisms and other relevant conventions;

(g) Invitation of appropriate international cooperation for the above purposes;

(h) Strengthening of the Network as an important source of information on best practices in environmental management.

H. International cooperation and partnership

44. The effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will require the United Nations system to make a more effective use of existing resources, seek possibilities for mobilizing new resources and improve coordination mechanisms for the focused and harmonized delivery of support for priorities relevant to small island developing States. In this respect, ongoing efforts undertaken by the United Nations system to enhance coordination could be useful. The existing institutional arrangements within the United Nations system would also require strengthening in order to fully implement the Programme of Action. The United Nations should continue to play its catalytic and supportive role, particularly through the regional commissions, which play an integral role in the overall implementation of the Programme of Action, especially in the provision of assistance for capacity-building in small island developing States. Consequently, the efforts to reform the institutional arrangements within the United Nations system must take these concerns into account for future actions.

45. Ongoing monitoring and review is an important aspect of measuring performance, and will need to continue by way of reports of the Secretary-General and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its agreed work programme (see E/CN.17/1996/6). United Nations agencies would need to further focus on their areas of expertise and agreed mandates, as well as build upon regional or national strategies, conventions and programmes that are country-driven. In addition, there are important linkages with the Commission's review of oceans and seas, and recommendations on international coordination and cooperation.

46. In addition to improving coordination, United Nations system agencies should be more proactive in seeking the views of small island developing States across the full range of sustainable development issues in order to ensure that they take due account of both national differences and local sensitivities, in particular, sensitivities in relation to such areas as traditional knowledge and the special place of local and indigenous communities.

47. Increased international support for regional monitoring and assessment will be required as well as the welcomed participation of small island developing States in the *Global Environment Outlook*. It will be essential to develop benchmarks and improve performance indicators, including time-frames for measuring and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, and decisions by governing bodies of United Nations system agencies. Although periodic reviews of certain aspects of the Programme of Action are envisaged within the context of the Commission on Sustainable Development, full and comprehensive review of [these decisions and] the implementation of the Programme of Action is useful and required in 2004.

48. In the context of actions being undertaken to address these issues and on the basis of a strong and committed partnership between small island developing States and the international community, the international community and small island developing States should pursue and support the following goals, objectives, and activities, including through specific modalities, to assist in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(a) Strengthening of the existing institutional arrangements through more efficient use of resources in the United Nations to maximize support for small island developing States and so that the United Nations, its agencies and regional commissions become more effective in promoting and assisting sustainable development in island States;

(b) Facilitation of the development of partnerships among all stakeholders, in particular local communities, NGOs and the private sector;

(c) Recognizing the role and function of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) and encouraging and supporting the efforts of AOSIS in promoting the interests and concerns of small island developing States and their sustainable development;

(d) Ensuring that United Nations agencies and Member States take into consideration national and regional sustainable development strategies and mechanisms, such as regional conventions, treaties and other regional agreements and/or arrangements adopted by small island developing States, as the umbrella for programme design, in close consultation with the small island developing States of the regions concerned, thereby ensuring that the activities of the United Nations agencies are increasingly aligned with small island developing States regional organizations' strategies, work plans and coordination mechanisms;

(e) By the United Nations system agencies of the efforts of small island developing States to achieve accession to and implementation of relevant international conventions. In the event that some small island developing States are unable, on account of financial or human resource constraints, to accede to international conventions, their partners in sustainable development should consult with small island developing States to seek their views on the issues addressed by such conventions in order that they may be able to take account of small island developing States positions during meetings of the Conferences of Parties to those Conventions;

(f) Other regional and subregional organizations belonging to or operating in small island developing States regions in continuing and strengthening of their efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and support the national implementation effort of small island developing States Governments.

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